



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Saturday, March 24, 2018
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Threats: Elevated/Critical Fire Weather Conditions across NM/W TX.

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS Rivers.

Minor river flooding continues in LA and E AR.

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Paul Witsaman/ Kurt Vanspeybroeck
817-978-1100 x 147



Key Points



Today

- **Elevated/Critical Fire Weather conditions across NM/W TX.**

Sunday - Monday

- **Elevated/Critical Fire Weather conditions across NM/W TX into the TX/OK Panhandles through Monday.**
- **Strong/severe thunderstorms possible Sunday - NE OK into NW TX.**
- **Strong/severe thunderstorms possible Monday SW TX into NE OK.**
- **Heavy rainfall/flash flooding possible from NE OK into N TX - Monday.**

Tuesday - Wednesday

- **Strong/severe thunderstorms across TX into LA.**
- **Heavy rainfall/flash flooding possible across E OK/TX into AR/LA.**

River Flood Status

- **The Atchafalaya River continues a flat crest at Morgan City, LA and the river has crested and is falling between Simmesport, LA to Butte La Rose, LA.**
- **Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, the gauge at Reserve, LA will continue to show minor flooding levels until the spillway is closed. This location should start to recede in the next week.**

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 24, 2018 - Mar 28, 2018

DAY / THREAT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Strong/Severe Storms		TX/ OK	SW TX/OK	TX/LA	SE TX/LA
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding			NE OK	E TX/AR/LA SE OK	E TX/AR/N LA SE OK
Fire Weather	NM/W TX	NM/W TX TX/OK Panhandles	NM/W TX		
Winter					
River Flooding	LA				
	LA/E AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.

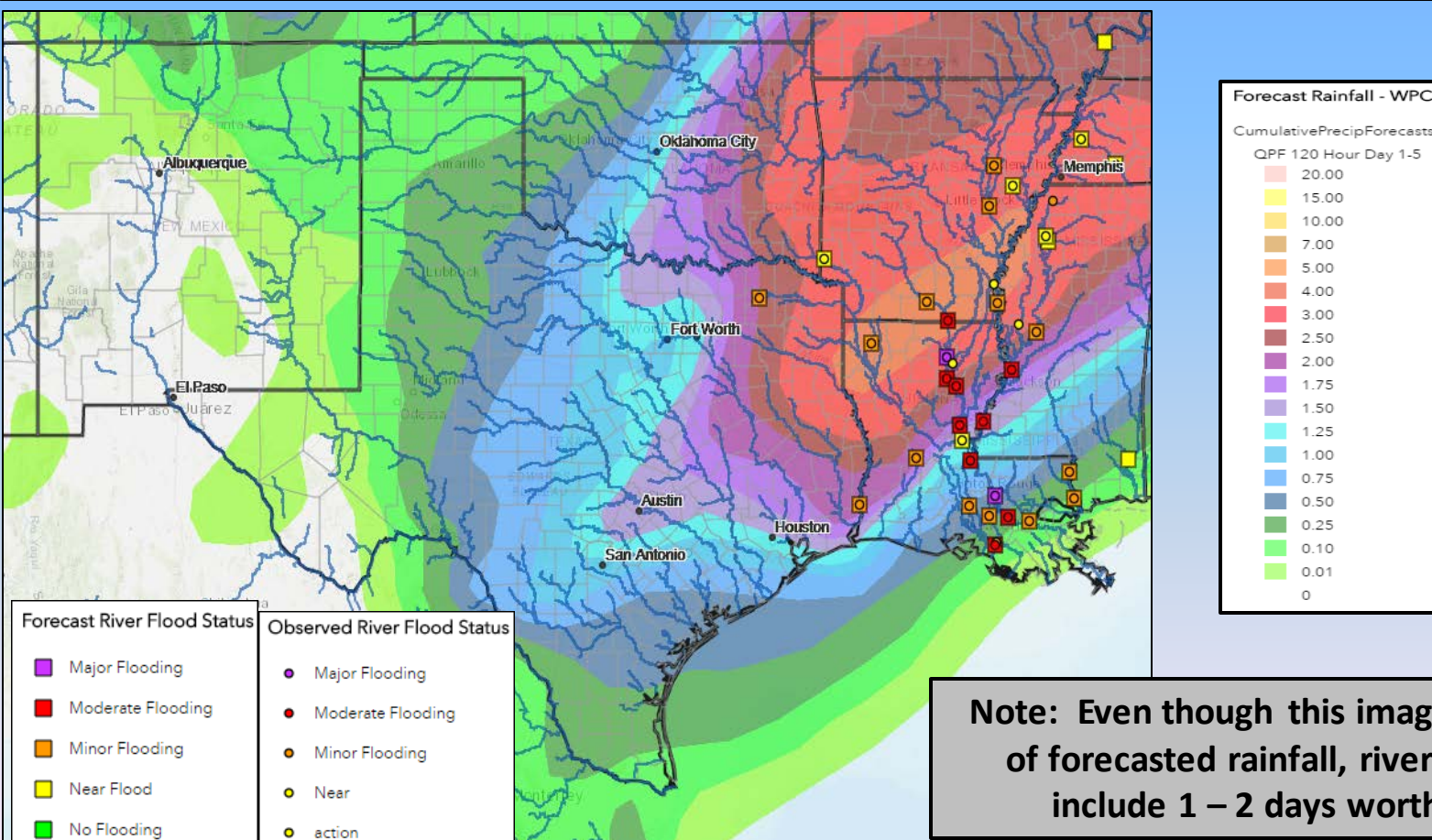


5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita and Mississippi Rivers in LA:

- **The Atchafalaya River continued to crest at Morgan City, LA and the river has crested and is falling between Simmesport, LA to Butte La Rose, LA**
- **Due to the operations of the Bonnet Carre spillway the stage at Reserve, LA will continue to fluctuate around minor flood stage until the spillways is closed.**

Minor flooding continues in LA and E AR.



See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



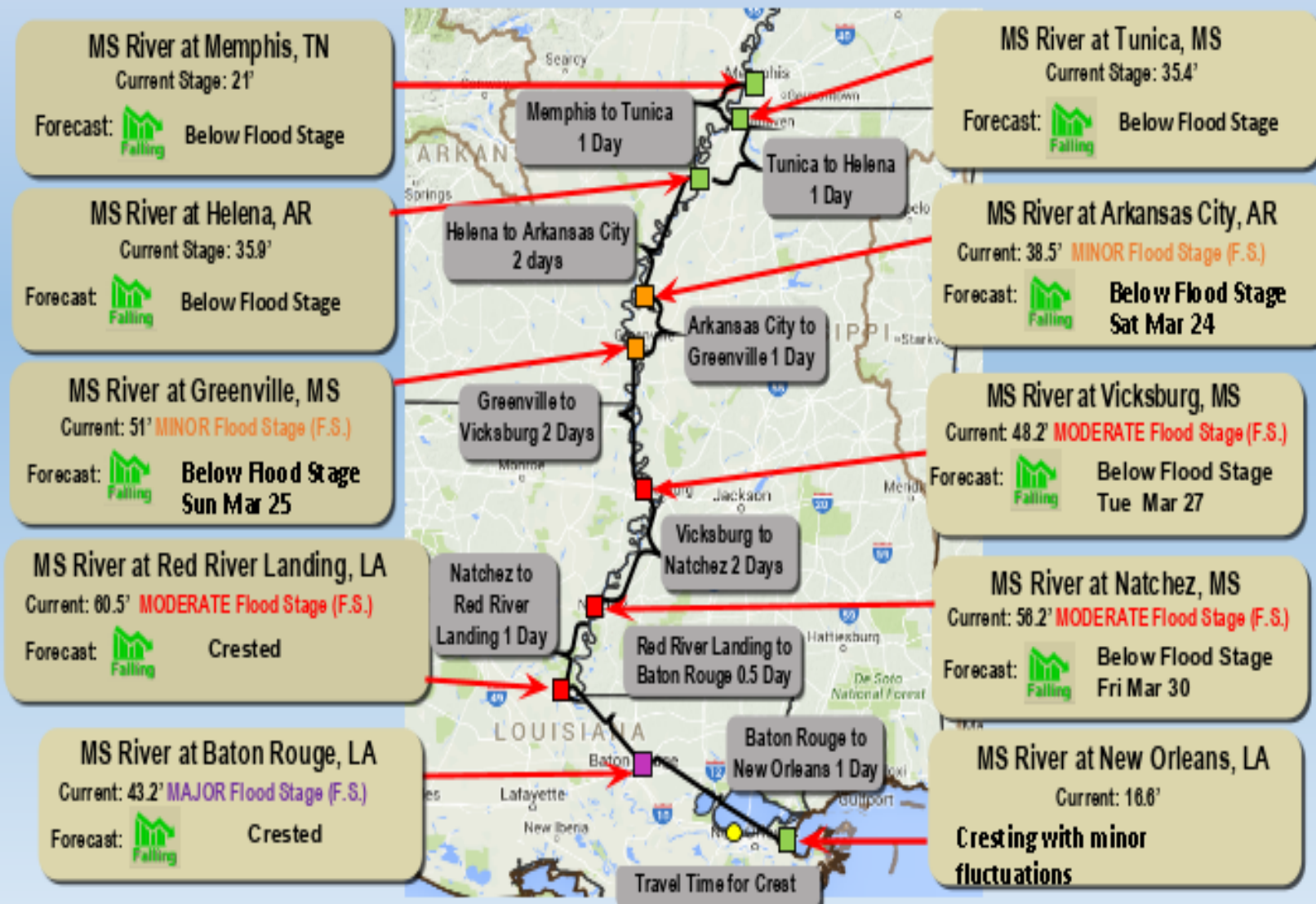
Mississippi River Flood Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 23, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



Forecast Based on Bonnet Carré Operation



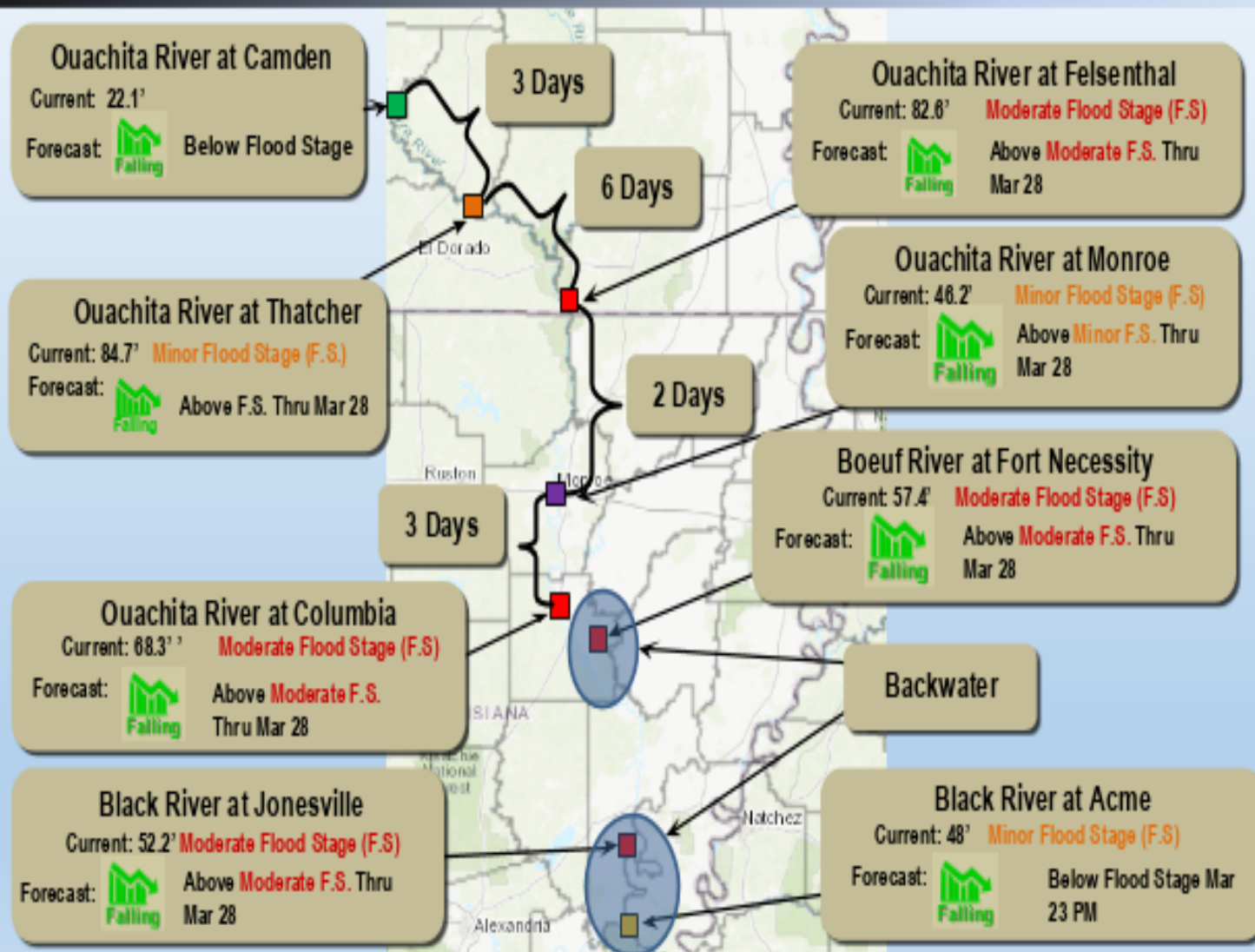
Ouachita River Flood Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 23, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

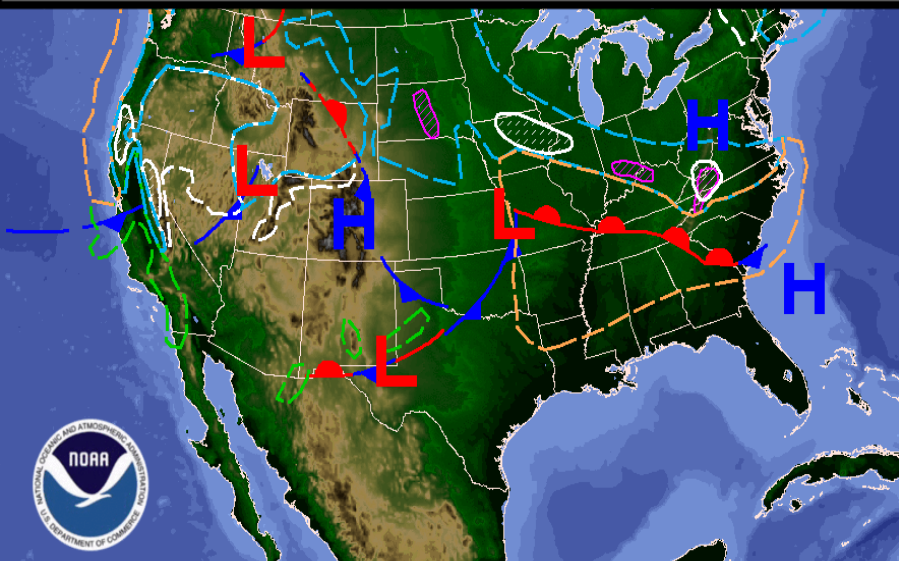
NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



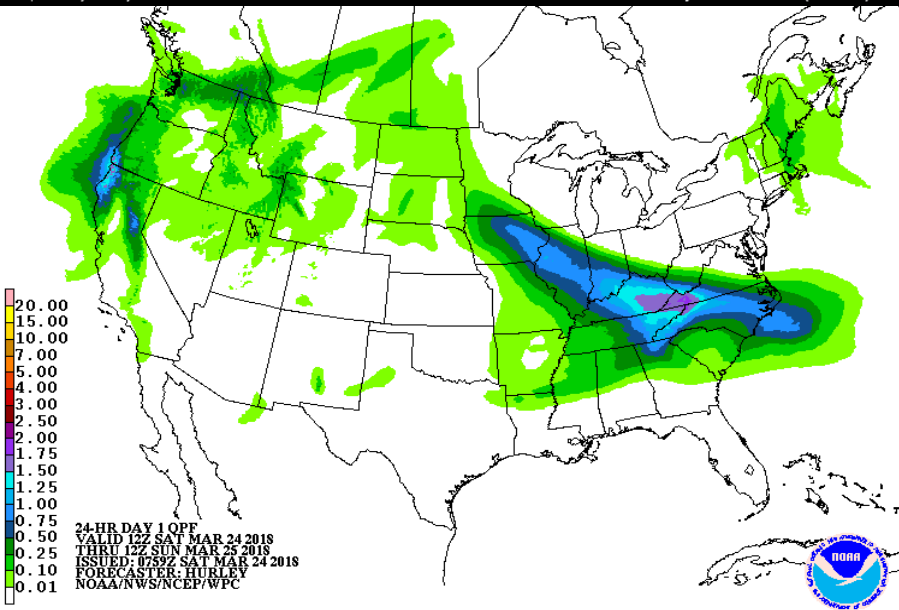
★ Crest Today

Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart
Valid Sat, Mar 24, 2018, issued 5:18 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24 HR DAY 1 OPI
VALID 12Z SAT MAR 24 2018
THRU 12Z SUN MAR 25 2018
ISSUED: 0759Z SAT MAR 24 2018
FORECASTER: HURLEY
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Elevated/Critical Fire Weather conditions today across NM/W TX.

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.

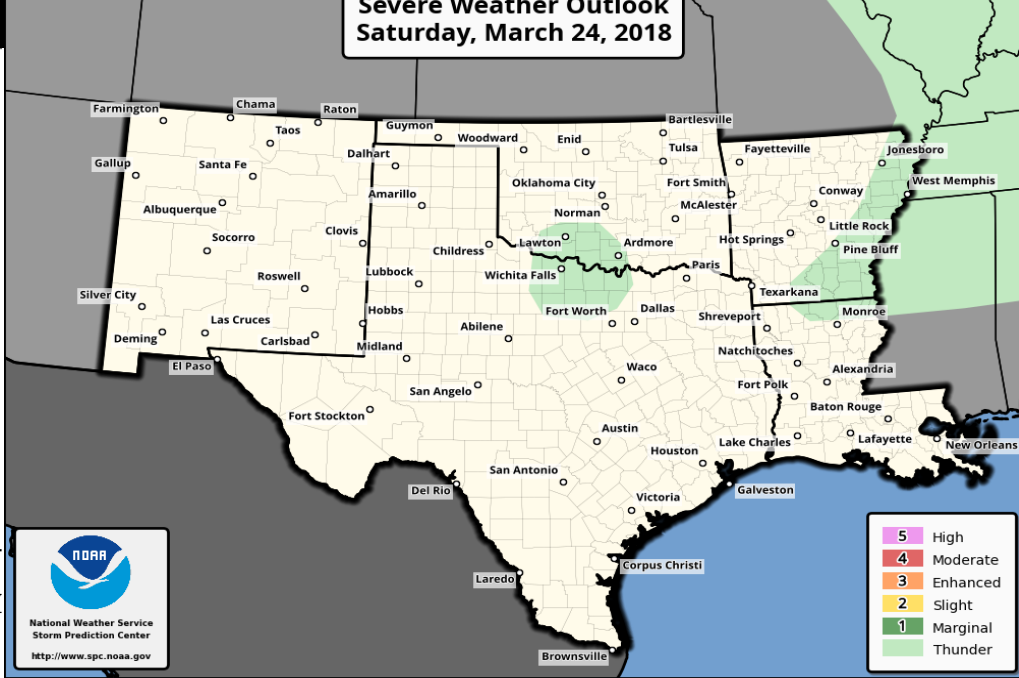
Minor flooding continues in LA and E AR.

Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Saturday, March 24, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 24 2018 0737 AM CDT

Valid Until: Mar 25 2018 0700 AM CDT



Tomorrow's Weather

Strong/severe storms possible from NE OK into Central TX

Critical Fire Weather conditions for NM/W TX into the TX/OK Panhandles

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.

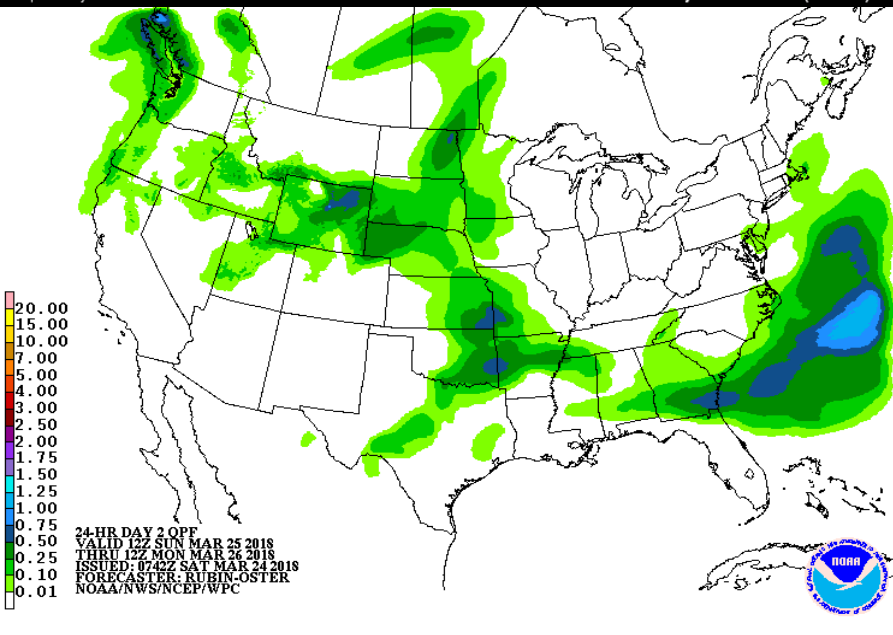
Minor flooding will continue in E TX/LA and AR.



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 25, 2018, issued 4:53 AM EDT Sat, Mar 24, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

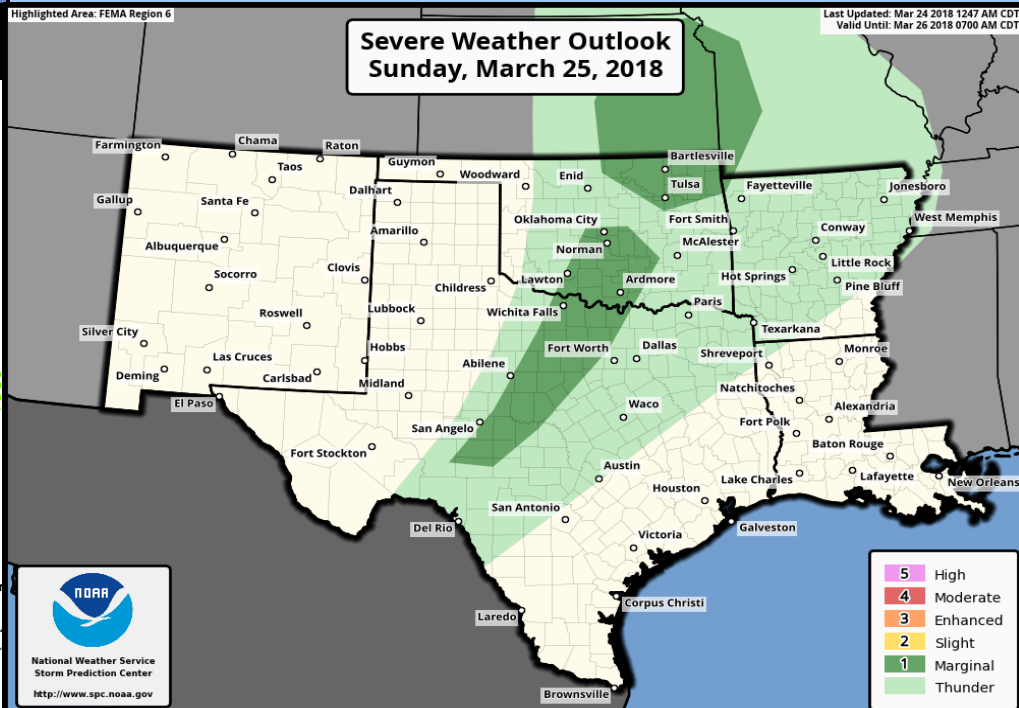
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Sunday, March 25, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 24 2018 12:47 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 26 2018 07:00 AM CDT



Monday's Weather

Critical Fire Weather conditions for NM/W TX

Severe thunderstorms from NE OK into SW TX.

Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.

Minor flooding will continue in LA and AR.



Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 26, 2018, issued 4:55 AM EDT Sat, Mar 24, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

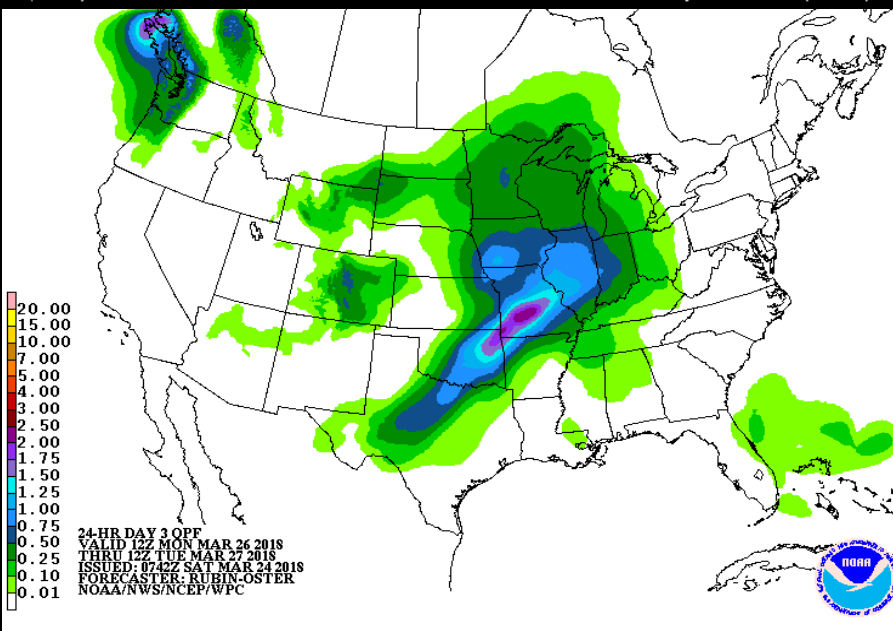
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

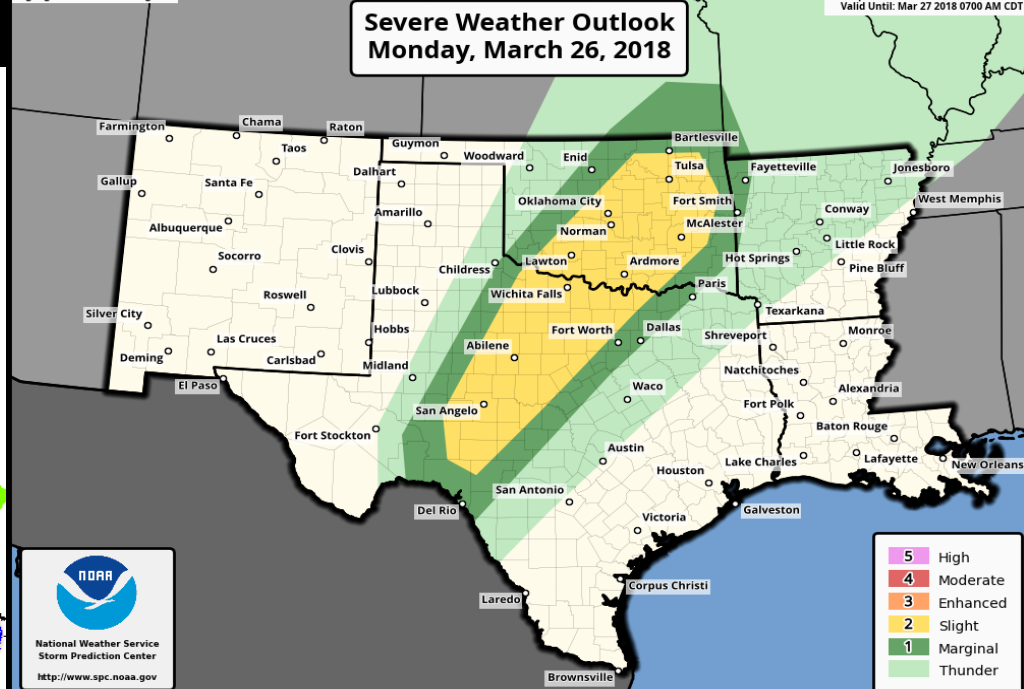
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

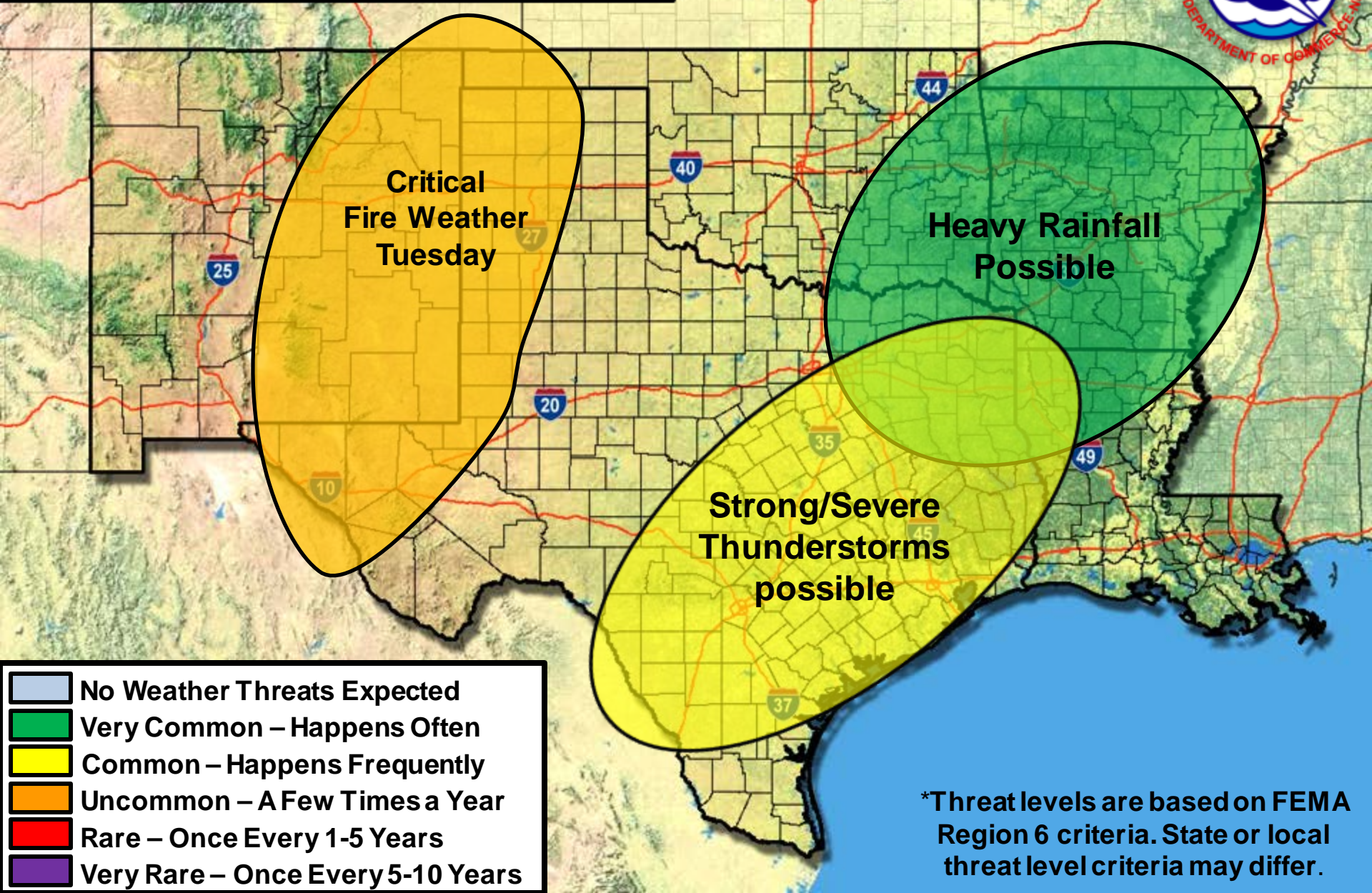
Severe Weather Outlook Monday, March 26, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 24 2018 0231 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 27 2018 0700 AM CDT



Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Tuesday-Wednesday



**Critical
Fire Weather
Tuesday**

**Heavy Rainfall
Possible**

**Strong/Severe
Thunderstorms
possible**

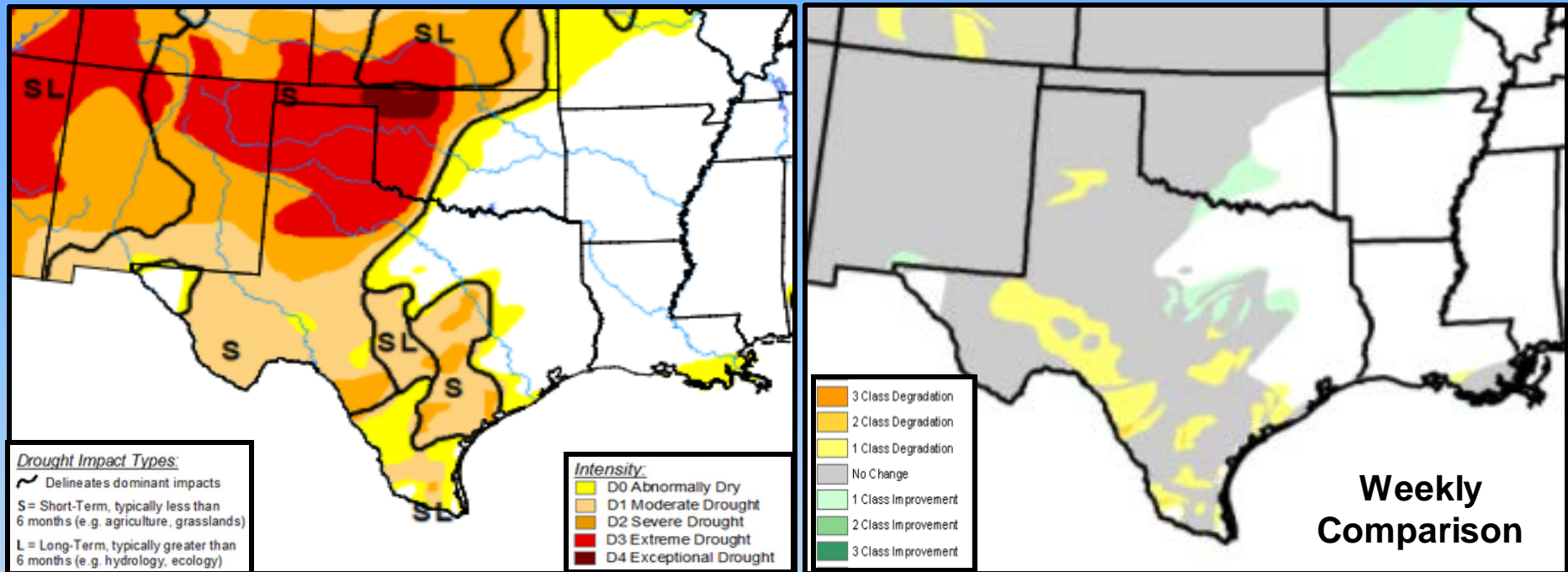
	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.



Drought Monitor Released March 22, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 20, 2018



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	25.31%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.93%	34.93%	1.21%	3.17%
Texas	15.08%	14.19%	0.25%	0.00%
New Mexico	25.60%	25.50%	0.00%	0.00%

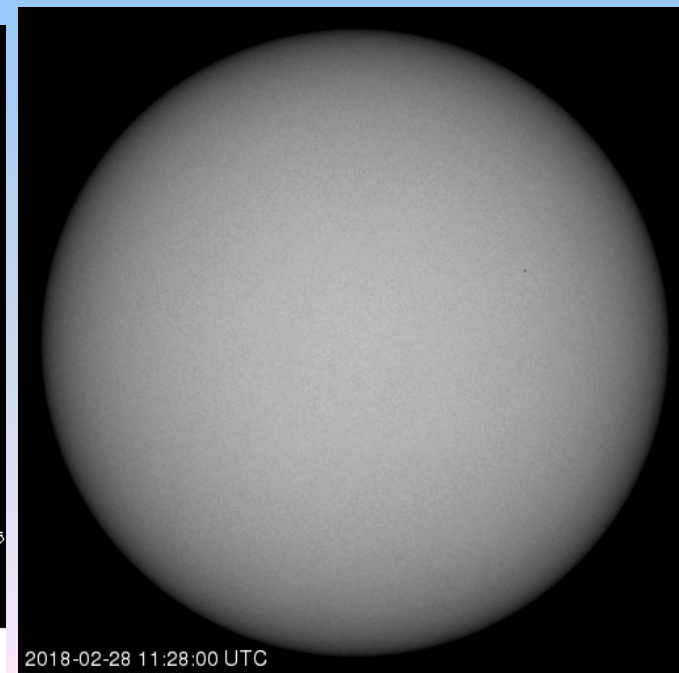
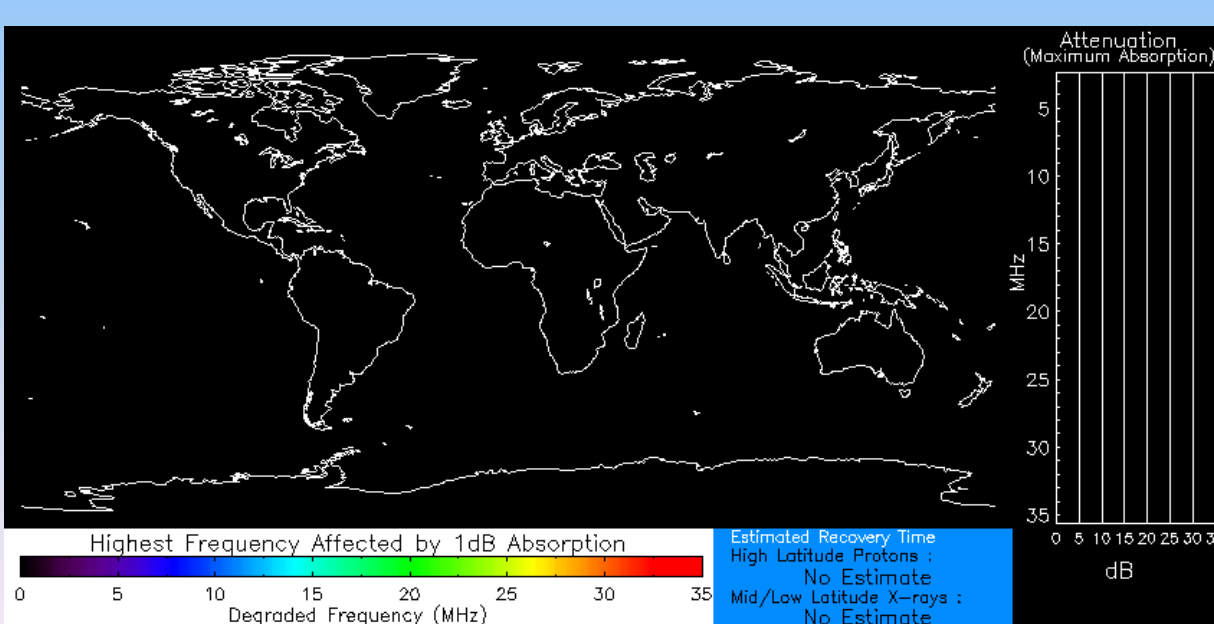
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Geomagnetic Storms	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%

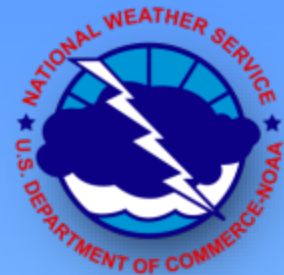


2018-02-28 11:28:00 UTC

Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2018-03-24 13:39 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

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<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms